

“Enhancing transformative research for sustainable development: mutual learning within the Future Earth research platform”

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In recent years, td research has been buoyed by a tailwind from the international Future Earth research platform which stresses that knowledge for sustainability transformations should be co-produced in transdisciplinary ways. Future Earth is an emerging network on an international as well as on regional and national levels. It tries to push transdisciplinary research by encouraging the research community to implement transdisciplinary approaches and by providing training, as well as through their Knowledge Action Networks (KANs) that are meant to bridge gaps between disciplines and societal actors in sustainability transformations.

However, representatives and members of Future Earth are highly challenged to implement transdisciplinary approaches within their own structures and creating conditions which are truly favourable for transdisciplinarity. A major reason for this challenge is that, to date, very little documented experience exists in implementing transdisciplinary research at the level of entire international research networks.

In order to address this gap and advance the potential of Future Earth to foster sustainability transformations via transdisciplinary research, we have started to implement a research project aiming to facilitate broader learning processes about how Future Earth and its members can integrate transdisciplinarity in their structures. These learning processes are facilitated through joint reflection between representatives of Future Earth, its members, td experts, and societal actors. Discussions between these actors are nurtured by their own experiences and insights from new research which will be jointly defined with the participants.

In this presentation we like to present the project and first experiences with its implementation.